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Letter dated 26 October 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to update the Security Council on the detail of Australia's current security assistance in support of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT).

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1704 (2006), the international security force led by Australia is fully cooperating with and providing assistance to UNMIT for the implementation of the mandate.

The support is being provided by a military force of approximately 1,100 troops, including a headquarters, three infantry companies, engineer elements, military police, Black Hawk helicopters, light observation helicopters, and combat logistic support elements. Australia is also maintaining additional back-up capability available at short notice should the situation in Timor-Leste deteriorate beyond the capacities of the personnel currently deployed.

The international security force is providing static protection for agreed UNMIT facilities, as well as assisting the UNMIT police with the maintenance of public security. The international security force is also prepared to provide, in extremis, protection for additional United Nations facilities, protection of humanitarian assets, protection for IDP camps, ensuring freedom of movement of United Nations personnel and convoy escort, and evacuation assistance for United Nations personnel should the United Nations decide to relocate United Nations personnel from Timor-Leste.

A technical arrangement between the Government of Australia, as the lead nation of the international security force, and the United Nations is close to being finalized. The arrangement sets out the agreed support provided by the international security force to UNMIT.

Australia, through the international security force logistic capability, has provided UNMIT with short notice rations support, and is currently providing medical support to UNMIT that should soon be formalized under letter-of-assist arrangements. Australia is also currently examining provision of further multifunction logistic support to UNMIT under letter-of-assist arrangements.

The international security force is currently being provided by Australia and New Zealand; however, at the request of the Government of Timor-Leste, we have

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been canvassing other regional countries with a view to them contributing some force elements.

I also take this opportunity to advise you that command of the force passed from Brigadier Mick Slater to Brigadier Mal Rerden today.

I have written in similar terms to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. I would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Robert **Hill**